

Thinking about getting your motorcycle licence?

Here's a simple guide to help you understand the steps, the rules, and what to expect along the way.

Why it matters

Motorcycles are a great way to get around – but riders are more exposed than other road users. Learning the right skills early on helps keep you safe every time you hit the road.

The **Road Safety Centre** offers a **free session** for anyone who's getting, or has just received, their motorcycle learner's permit. It's the perfect way to build confidence and learn good habits from the start.

Getting your motorcycle learner's permit

To apply, you must meet one of the following:

- **18 years or older**
- **17 years old** with a provisional licence for another class of vehicle
- **16 or 17 years old** and living in a 'prescribed locality'.
 - In this case, you'll get a **restricted learner's permit**, meaning you can only ride for:
 - attending or taking part in tertiary or vocational training
 - work purposes
 - participating in a sporting activity.

You'll also need to:

- pass a **theory test** (unless you already hold a driver's licence),
- complete the **basic rider safe course**
- bring your **endorsed 'Approval to obtain a learner's permit'** certificate to Service SA.

Once you have your learner's permit

You must:

- ride a **learner approved motorcycle**
- display an **L plate**
- carry your learner's permit with you
- have **zero alcohol/drugs** in your system



Thinking about getting your motorcycle licence?

- not **exceed the speed limit by 10 km/h or more** and never travel over **100 km/h**
- **not** ride with passengers (pillion)
- **not** tow anything
- **not** use any mobile phone functions
- **not** lane filter
- **not** reach **four or more demerit points**.

If you're **under 25 years of age**, you must also avoid riding **between midnight and 5 am**, unless you meet exemption criteria.

Moving from learner's permit to R-Date licence

To graduate to your R-Date licence, you'll need to:

- hold your learner's permit for **at least 12 months**
- be **19 years or older**
- pass the **Hazard Perception Test** (if you don't already hold a driver's licence or car learner's permit)
- complete and pass the **motorbike pre-licence course** and **motorbike licence assessment**
- take your **certificate of competency** to Service SA.

Once you're on your R-Date licence:

- you must continue to maintain **zero alcohol/drugs**
- if you don't hold a full licence in another class, you must follow **provisional licence conditions**.

Upgrading from R-Date to R-Class

Good news – this part is easy!

- Simply hold your R-Date licence for **two years**.
- When that time is up, you automatically become eligible for an **R-Class licence**, which lets you ride **any** motorcycle, regardless of power to weight ratio.
- No need to apply – it happens automatically.



Thinking about getting your motorcycle licence?

You're all set!

Getting your motorcycle licence is an exciting journey, and understanding the steps makes it much easier. Take your time, build your skills, and stay safe out there.

About the SA Police Road Safety Centre

The SA Police Road Safety Centre leads the way in road safety education across South Australia. Our programs help reduce road trauma by building the awareness, knowledge, and skills of all road users – supporting safer journeys through lifelong learning.

Want to learn more?

Explore our full range of programs and resources:

 www.police.sa.gov.au/road-safety

Or simply **scan the QR code** in this fact sheet to go straight to our road safety page.

Book a FREE road safety session

We offer engaging, practical sessions for schools, community groups, and organisations.

 SAPOL.RoadSafetySection@police.sa.gov.au

Stay connected

Follow us on Instagram for tips, updates, and road safety insights:

 [@sapolroadsafety](https://www.instagram.com/sapolroadsafety)

